

# Improving Storage Management for SMBs

*EMC VisualSRM SMB Edition*

**Abstract:**

Small and medium businesses (SMBs) must manage and store a rapidly growing amount of business-related data, even though they rarely have the manpower or financial resources to efficiently manage their storage needs. EMC VisualSRM SMB Edition storage resource management software is designed to help SMBs meet their unique storage management challenges. EMC VisualSRM SMB Edition helps SMBs analyze and manage current storage resources for recovering wasted assets. It provides file-level reporting and scalable automated policies to help you make better use of your storage. It's the perfect solution for SMBs that need to manage storage more efficiency.

Date 2/1/2006

Copyright © 2006 EMC Corporation. All rights reserved.

EMC believes the information in this publication is accurate as of its publication date. The information is subject to change without notice.

THE INFORMATION IN THIS PUBLICATION IS PROVIDED “AS IS.” EMC CORPORATION MAKES NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES OF ANY KIND WITH RESPECT TO THE INFORMATION IN THIS PUBLICATION, AND SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIMS IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

Use, copying, and distribution of any EMC software described in this publication requires an applicable software license.

EMC<sup>2</sup>, EMC, and where information lives are registered trademarks and VisualSRM SMB Edition are trademarks of EMC Corporation. All other trademarks used herein are the property of their respective owners.

All other brand names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners.

[S70170106V1]

Table of Contents

<b>Overview</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Storage strategies</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Storage resource management specifically for the SMB</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Key product elements</b> .....	<b>5</b>
User interface with customizable dashboard .....	5
Reporting.....	5
Intelligent actions .....	6
<b>Benefits of EMC VisualSRM SMB Edition</b> .....	<b>6</b>

## Overview

Information is the lifeblood of business, regardless of the size of the company. Even small and medium companies must accommodate an ever-increasing amount of information in the form of e-mails, documents, presentations, databases, graphics, audio files, and spreadsheets. Storing all this information can strain resources. SMBs are particularly vulnerable to stretched resources. With limited IT staff and budgets, SMBs struggle to keep pace with the increase in data and demand for more storage. An overwhelming number of routine tasks leave little time for IT staff to focus on long-term storage needs and plan for the future.

## Storage strategies

Many companies meet their storage needs simply by purchasing more servers, direct-attached storage, or other devices. The problem with this quick fix is that storage distribution becomes uneven as data increases. Some servers run more active applications. Some applications generate more files. Over time, some servers have more available storage than they need. Others run dangerously short. If storage is consumed on critical servers, companies are vulnerable to data loss and reduced productivity caused by failure. The first alert that something is wrong might come when the server runs out of storage and work grinds to a halt.

Companies that lack real-time monitoring tools have no clear way to determine how much free space is available or where it is located. Typically, SMBs use a combination of scripts and paper tracking to manually record storage information for their systems. As data increases and more servers and disks are added, SMBs have more difficulty assessing the state of their data. How old is the data? How much data is duplicate or stale? How much is non-business related? With a manual process, these questions are difficult to answer.

Storage management software was designed to manage data on a server, storage network, or storage device. The first storage resource management (SRM) products were geared for large enterprises. Faced with a rapid accumulation of data, the need for more storage, and the growing complexity of infrastructure issues, SMBs began looking for similar solutions. Cost, price performance, ease of use, and minimal training are contributing factors in deciding what software to purchase.

## Storage resource management specifically for the SMB

EMC VisualSRM SMB Edition creates a new standard in storage resource management for the SMB market, addressing the needs of an increasingly complex storage environment. It enables IT administrators to view and manage the entire storage infrastructure from a single console. A file's location and history are now easily identifiable. VisualSRM SMB Edition provides robust reporting and automated management policies.

EMC VisualSRM SMB Edition provides the best opportunity for SMBs to view, analyze, and efficiently manage their storage.

- **View.** VisualSRM SMB Edition lets administrators scan their storage environments to discover the location, usage, and age of files. With a single view, administrators have a real-time snapshot of storage utilization and data availability.
- **Analyze.** VisualSRM SMB Edition provides a drilled-down view of all files and shows where data is stored as well as the number and size of files. Detailed reports can be generated and exported into a range of formats. These reports allow IT staff to determine what to do with the data.
- **Manage.** VisualSRM SMB Edition enables IT staff to create thresholds and alerts to identify when data has reached a critical stage. IT staff can create and automate policies to manage storage on an ongoing basis.

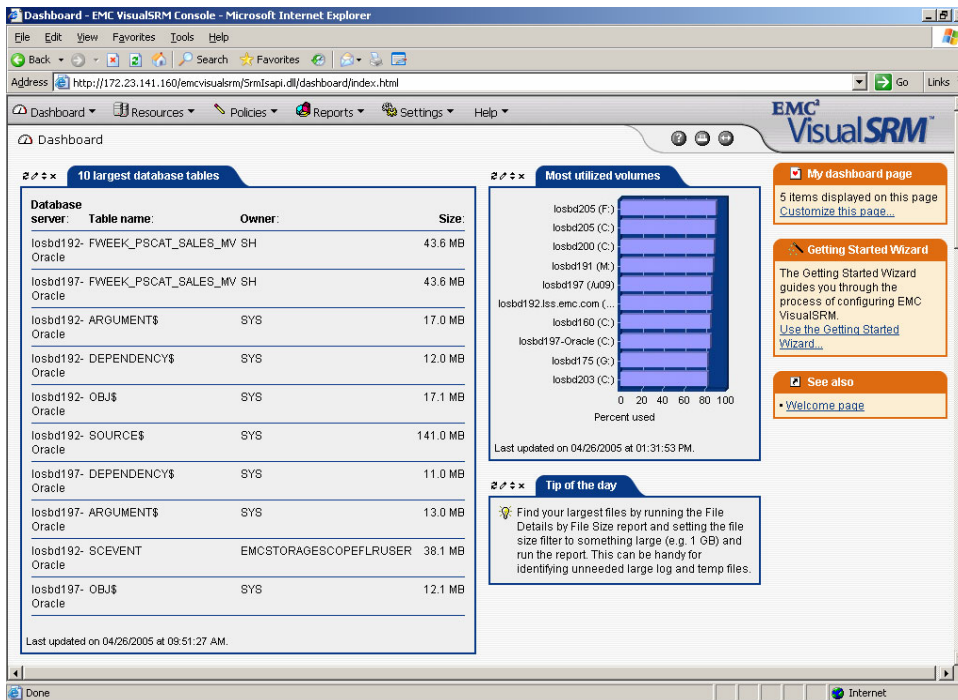
## Key product elements

EMC VisualSRM SMB Edition runs on Microsoft Windows 2000 Server with SP4, Windows 2000 Advanced Server with SP4, Windows 2003 Server Enterprise Edition, and Windows 2003 Server Standard Edition. It provides backend database support for SQL Server 2005, SQL Server 2005 Express, SQL Server 2000 with SP 3, and MSDE 2000 with SP3.

VisualSRM SMB Edition agents run on Windows NT 4.0 with SP6; Windows 2000 Server, Advanced Server with SP6; Windows 2003 Server, Enterprise Edition; Windows 2003 Server, Standard Edition. VisualSRM SMB Edition supports the following managed operating systems: Windows NT 4 Server with SP6; Windows 2000 Server, Advanced Server with SP4; Microsoft Windows 2003 Server Enterprise Edition, Standard Edition.

## User interface with customizable dashboard

You can use VisualSRM SMB Edition's easy-to-use wizards to actively monitor and manage storage allocation and usage. After systems have been scanned by volume, you can view a detailed analysis of how storage is utilized.

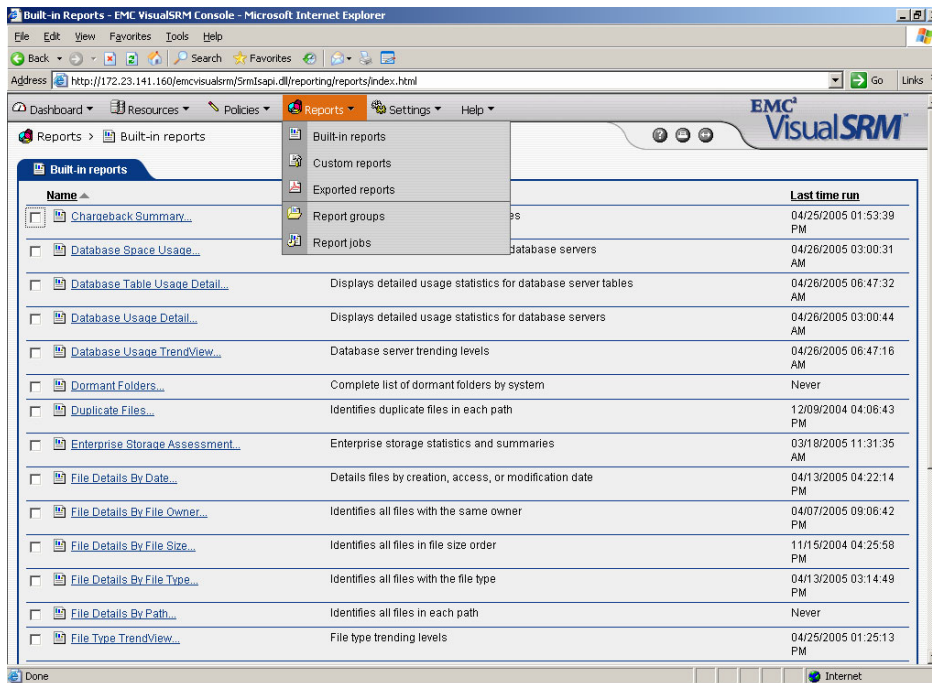


VisualSRM SMB Edition provides an intuitive interface that enables detailed drilldown into any particular volume and detailed analysis of utilization over the past 90 days. Key components of the dashboard include:

- Customizable views using snapshots, screen refresh
- Calendar function displays scheduled policies
- Event log records all activities across managed resources for reporting purposes

## Reporting

VisualSRM SMB Edition provides IT administrators with prebuilt reports that can be run interactively in real time or as scheduled jobs. Reports show information at the detail or summary level and include trending analysis for capacity planning and chargeback capabilities. Reports can be created in many commonly used formats, including PDF, XML, HTML, XLS, and RTF.



## Intelligent actions

VisualSRM SMB Edition has many sophisticated agents that control a series of intelligent actions. These intelligent actions include the ability to scan each system by volume and create a detailed report that analyzes the utilization of allocated storage, all in a single view. Intelligent actions can include staging objects for deletion, moving objects to a specified location, running scripts, or performing compressions. Policies can be scheduled or manually started. Policies can perform a variety of maintenance capabilities, including the following:

- Automating business policies to provide consistency and efficiency
- Automatically scanning databases, mail servers, files, and event logs
- Automating the creation of capacity thresholds, alerts, and reports

## Benefits of EMC VisualSRM SMB Edition

SMBs face the same rapidly increasing data dilemma experienced by larger businesses. As with their larger counterparts, SMBs are looking at ways to improve data availability, implement network storage, and centralize backup and recovery while also maintaining costs.

VisualSRM SMB Edition has a track record of success in helping SMBs. It provides an easy-to-use, customizable, Web-based graphical user interface, and it utilizes wizards for quick policy creation, drill-down reporting, and intuitive views of storage systems, applications, and configurations.

VisualSRM SMB Edition offers the following capabilities to make it easy for SMBs to take control of their storage:

- Provides single view of all file systems and applications
- Provides built-in reports for quick review of data usage and trends
- Discovers, identifies, and reports on Exchange and database usage
- Identifies underutilized disk space
- Enables IT to set and manage storage thresholds

- Enables IT to create and automate policies for data retention, archival, or removal

VisualSRM SMB Edition helps companies move from reactive processes to proactive storage management. With VisualSRM SMB Edition, businesses can automate processes across storage, system, and application resources to improve storage utilization, increase availability, and employ efficient management.

For more information on VisualSRM SMB Edition, go to [www.emcinsignia.com](http://www.emcinsignia.com), or contact your EMC sales representative or valued-added partner.

#### **About EMC**

EMC Corporation (NYSE: EMC) is the world leader in information storage systems, software, networks, and services, providing automated networked storage solutions to help organizations get the maximum value from their information, at the lowest total cost, across every point in the information lifecycle. Information about EMC's products and services can be found at [www.emc.com](http://www.emc.com)

#### **About EMC VisualSRM SMB Edition**

EMC VisualSRM SMB Edition is part of the EMC Insignia line of software and hardware products, which enables small and medium businesses (SMBs) to store, protect, manage, and share vital business information. To learn more about EMC Insignia, contact your authorized EMC Velocity SMB channel partner or visit [www.emcinsignia.com](http://www.emcinsignia.com).